

1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Dear Students and Parents

I am writing to you for a number of reasons, but first wanted to thank you for your continued support and the hard work of students during this lockdown period.

When, like all schools across the country, we closed to all but the children of key workers and our more vulnerable students on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, I did not envisage schools would remain subject to such stringent lockdown restrictions for the duration of the summer term. It has therefore been fantastic to see so many of our Year 12 students in school for the last two weeks and now our Year 10s for the next two weeks, albeit with a reduced timetable for lessons on site.

Following on from my previous communications, I have set out within this letter our plans for the remainder of this term, including arrangements for A Level and GCSE Results Days and the subsequent advice and guidance that follows the release of these results.

#### **Weeks 5 & 6 - (Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July)**

Year 10 students are attending school in their quarters for lessons in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. This is supplementary to ongoing home learning that continues.

We also remain open for the children of key workers, students with special educational needs and our more vulnerable students.

#### **Week 7 - (Week beginning Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July) Final week of term**

We considered a wide range of options for this final week of term, assessing priority groups and how best to support students in anticipation of the new academic year. All plans are constrained by Government guidance, including capping the number of students on site at any one time and the requirement not to allow groups to mix between or within lessons – a condition that has prohibited the teaching of option subjects to Year 10 students, during this partial re-opening phase.

With this in mind, we have identified transition work with Year 8 students joining us in September, as a key priority for on-site provision during Week 7. This will be for students with special educational needs and vulnerable students. I know the Middle Schools would welcome this transition work and we felt it was critical for this group of students.

Also in this final week, teachers in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science will provide students in Year 9 and Year 10 with key lessons that will allow them the opportunity to catch up on any work that has been missed. This will help students to be successful on their return to school.

In addition, staff will also be in school during this week, planning extensively for all year groups for a proposed September re-opening.

In relation to Year 9, as we are required to follow Government guidance regarding the wider re-opening of schools, it is regrettable that this has been limited to Year 10 and Year 12, as we would very much have liked the opportunity to offer Yr.9 some face-to-face contact on-site, prior to the summer break. As guidance has prevented us from doing this, I wish to assure you that we will do our utmost to help students catch up on any lost learning, when we return.

### **Lessons e-mailed each day**

Lessons will continue to be e-mailed each day until the final week of term. However, in the final week, this process will be modified - individual daily lessons will not be e-mailed but instead departments will set summer work for Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 students to complete over the holidays. This work will be in preparation for a proposed return to school in September.

Students in Year 9 should complete these tasks in the core subjects and the option subjects they have chosen to study at GCSE.

Further guidance will be sent out about how to access these summer tasks next week.

### **A' Level and GCSE Results Days**

It remains our aspiration to give out results to students in person. However, given Covid restrictions, our current intention is to e-mail A Level and GCSE results to students at 8.00am on the morning of the results days.

A' Level Results – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August

GCSE Results – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August

There will be opportunities for students who require advice, guidance or support to easily request an appointment with a member of the Sixth Form Team or other trained staff who will be available to help with any concerns students may have regarding progression or any other queries.

### **Whitley Bay Sixth Form Enrolment**

Again, our preference is to do this in person; however, we are currently planning a remote enrolment process where students will complete an Enrolment Microsoft Form. Built into this planning is the opportunity for students who require further advice to contact the school to make an appointment with a member of the Sixth Form or Leadership Team and/or Connexions.

We are determined that, despite the circumstances, every student who needs support following their GCSE or A Level results will receive it promptly.

### **September Planning**

Currently we are awaiting further government guidance regarding how schools should proceed from September. In anticipation, we have already begun planning based upon a number of possible scenarios, but I will write to you in more detail once we have more information and guidance from Government.

Headteacher:  
Steve Wilson

Deputy Headteachers:  
Linda Buckle  
Andrew Sherlaw

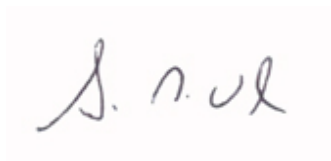
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## Conclusion

I hope this letter has provided you with some clarity as we move forward. I must stress that the plans we have in place would not be our first choice if circumstances were different, however, we remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting the needs of students through these difficult times. We look forward to an eventual return to normality when we may welcome all students back to school, once again.

I wish you and your families well.

Yours faithfully



STEVE WILSON  
Headteacher